

Legislative Update

Quarterly Summary (Q2 April - June 2008)

Governor Jon S. Corzine signed into law the following education/education-related bills

P.L.2008, c.50	S754- <i>Codey (D27); Conaway (D7)</i> -"Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act."
P.L.2008, c.39	A2873- <i>Coutinho (D29); Spencer (D29); Pou (D35)</i> -Increases EDA bonding limit for State share of school facilities projects; specifies debt service for these bonds will first be payable from revenues received from gross income tax; establishes priority categories for non-SDA district projects.
P.L.2008, c.38	S1557- <i>Vitale (D19); Singer (R30); Cohen (D20)</i> - Expands NJ FamilyCare, establishes mandate for health care coverage of children, makes various reforms to individual and small employer insurance markets and certain dependent coverage; appropriates \$1 million.
P.L.2008, c.37	A2965- <i>Moriarty (D4); Wolfe (R10)</i> -Establishes Commissioner of Education as the rule-making authority under several school district accountability statutes.
P.L.2008, c.36	A45- <i>Cryan (D20); Rumana (R40); Moriarty (D4)</i> -Eliminates role of State Board of Education in the appeal of Commissioner of Education decisions in disputes arising under the State school laws.
P.L.2008, c.34	A2811- <i>Johnson (D37); Chivukula (D17)</i> -Repeals "New Jersey-New York Clean Ocean and Shore Trust (COAST) Committee Act" and statute establishing Commission on Business Efficiency in the Public Schools.
P.L.2008, c.25	S1910- <i>Turner (D15); Cryan (D20)</i> -Provides DOE statutory authority for State-issued high school diplomas and rulemaking authority in regard to not for profit third parties that administer General Educational Development (GED) testing.
P.L.2008, c.20	S1698- <i>Buono (D18); Kean, S. (R11); Greenwald (D6)</i> -Revises calculation of Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio for experience rating year beginning July 1, 2008; appropriates \$260,000,000 to unemployment compensation fund.
P.L.2008, c.19	S442- <i>Pennacchio (R26); Sweeney (D3); Webber (R26)</i> -

	Permits student whose high school special education program requires instruction beyond four years to participate with his class in graduation ceremony and to receive certificate of attendance.
P.L.2008, c.17	A873- <i>Albano (D1); Oliver (D34); Greenstein (D14)</i> -Extends TDI to provide family leave benefits for workers caring for sick family members, newborn and newly adopted children.
P.L.2008, c.15	A1770- <i>Watson Coleman (D15); Wagner (D38); Gusciora (D15)</i> -Amends special probation statute to increase participation in drug program; permits court to reduce certain fees.
P.L.2008, c.14	A690- <i>Spencer (D29); Rodriguez (D33)</i> -Requires boards of education to permit public participation at board meetings.
P.L.2008, c.10	S1023- <i>Weinberg (D37); Turner (D15); Schaer (D36); Watson Coleman (D15); Cohen (D20); Fisher (D3)</i> -Requires alternative testing arrangements be provided to certain students unable to attend tests at their regular administration due to religious observance.

The Commissioner and/or department representatives offered the following committee testimony

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Assembly Education Committee Commissioner Davy testified before the on several bills of concern to the committee including, superintendent contracts and granting the Commissioner rulemaking authority.

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Joint Committee on Public Schools (JCPS) - Commissioner Davy and JCPS discussed current concerns with overuse of long-term substitute teachers and teacher retention; district superintendent contracts; and draft regulations regarding approved expenditures.

The Commissioner said that the department is currently reviewing all contracts to determine whether there are similar agreements in other districts. However, she pointed out that as much as she deplored the inappropriate use of funds, the department does not have the power to invalidate existing contracts.

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Senate Education Committee-Commissioner Davy testified on Abbott school district audits.

Monday, May 12, 2008

Assembly Education Committee- Commissioner Davy testified on school district performance audits that were conducted as a result of a State Supreme Court order and on the role of the State Board of Education.

Monday, April 10

Assembly Budget Committee- Commissioner Davy appeared for the FY 2009 Budget Review.

Monday, April 7, 2008

Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee- Commissioner Davy appeared for the FY 2009 Budget Review.